

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system ~~having a radio network controller, base stations and mobile stations, to perform~~ performing multicast communication, wherein

[[the]] a mobile station comprises a response signal transmitter configured to transmit a response signal including a group ID identifying a multicast group to [[the]] a base station, the response signal responding to a control signal for the multicast group which the mobile station is joining in; and

[[the]] a base station comprises:

a response signal counter configured to count the number of a plurality of response signals to a control signal for a multicast group, the plurality of response signals being transmitted from mobile stations and including a same group ID identifying a same multicast group to which the mobile stations are requesting to join;

a judger configured to judge whether the counted number of the plurality of response signals is more than a predetermined number of not; and

a response signal transmitter configured to transmit, to [[the]] a radio network controller, one response signal selected from [[a]] the plurality of response signals, without waiting to receive a subsequent response signal transmitted from another mobile station, when the counted number of the plurality of response signals is more than the predetermined number ~~transmitted from mobile stations, the plurality of response signal including a same group ID identifying a same multicast group to which the mobile stations are requesting to join.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A base station supporting multicast communication, the base station comprising:

a response signal counter configured to count the number of plurality of response signals to a control signal for a multicast group, the plurality of response signals being transmitted from mobile stations and including a same group ID identifying a same multicast group to which the mobile stations are requesting to join;

a judger configured to judge whether the counted number of the plurality of response signals is more than a predetermined number or not; and

a response signal transmitter configured to transmit, to a radio network controller, one response signal ~~responding to a control signal for a multicast group and~~ selected from ~~[[a]] the plurality of response signals, without waiting to receive a subsequent response signal transmitted from another mobile station, when the counted number of the plurality of response signals is more than the predetermined number-transmitted from mobile stations, the plurality of response signal including a same group ID identifying a same multicast group to which the mobile stations are requesting to join.~~

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The base station according to claim 3, further comprising a detector configured to detect a first reception of the one response signal transmitted from the mobile stations; and wherein

~~[[the]]~~ a response signal holder holds the one response signal for a predetermined duration after the first reception of the at least one response signal.

6-7 (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The base station according to claim 3 [[7]], wherein the response signal transmitter is configured to transmit the one response signal including information showing that the counted number of the plurality of response signals is more than the predetermined number, or the counted number of the plurality of response signals to the radio network controller.

9. (Currently Amended) A radio network controller supporting multicast communication, the radio network controller comprising:

a receiver configured to receive a response signal transmitted from at least one base station, the response signal including a same group ID identifying a same multicast group to which the mobile stations are requesting to join, and including information showing that the number of response signals transmitted from mobile stations is more than the predetermined number;

a extractor configured to extract the information from the received response signal;
and

a radio controller configured to perform radio controlling in multicast communication in accordance with the extracted information.

10. (Previously Presented) A radio network controller supporting multicast communication, the radio network controller comprising:

a receiver configured to receive a response signal transmitted format at least one base station, the response signal including the number of response signals transmitted from mobile

stations and including a same group ID identifying a same multicast group to which the mobile stations are requesting to join;

a extractor configured to extract the number of response signals from the received response signal; and

a radio controller configured to perform radio controlling in multicast communication in accordance with the extracted number of response signals.

11 (New): The base station according to claim 3, wherein the response signal transmitter is configured to transmit, to the radio network controller, the plurality of response signals, instead of transmitting the one response signal selected from the plurality of response signals, when the counted number of the plurality of response signals is less than or equal to the predetermined number.